

Remarks

Claims 10-13, 15, 29, 31-35, 37-43, 48-53, 56, 57, 65 and 124-130 are pending in the present application. Claims 12 and 15 were rejected under 35 USC 102. Claims 29, 31-35, 37, 38, 49-53, 56, 57 and 65 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a). Claim 13 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner noted that it would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 10, 11, 39-43, 48 and 124-130 were allowed. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of all objections, and allowance of the application in view of the amendments and remarks below.

The Amendments to the Claims

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner as to the rejections regarding the remaining pending claims. However, in order to bring this application to issuance, Applicants have canceled without prejudice claims 12, 13, 15, 29, 31-35, 37, 38, 49-53, 56, 57 and 65 and reserve all rights to refile claims of the same or similar scope in a continuing application. Claims 10, 11, 39, 41, 42, 48, 124, 126 and 128-130 are amended herein.

The additional amendments to the claims and the newly introduced claims do not introduce new matter. The amendment to Claim 10 to recite that the gas flow is regulated to be within a desired range is supported, e.g., at page 30, lines 4-14 and original claim 6. The new claims are all dependent on allowed claims, and should for the same reasons all be allowable. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the claims put the application in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the amendments to the claims and allow all pending and amended claims.

Conclusion

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's careful and thorough review of the application and submit that the Examiner's concerns have been addressed by the amendments and remarks above. The Applicants accordingly request the Examiner to withdraw all objections and allow the application. In the event the Examiner believes a telephonic discussion would expedite allowance or help to resolve outstanding issues, prosecution of the application, then the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (303) 268-0066. Please direct all correspondence to the following customer number: 37485.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that a further extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such

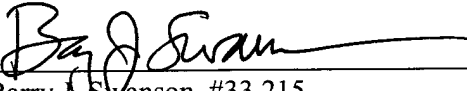
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petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 195117.

Respectfully submitted,

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